



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
*Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR NEW JUVENILE COURTHOUSE TO BE HELD FRIDAY

The Ventura Superior Court will be holding a groundbreaking ceremony for its new juvenile courthouse on Friday, February 21, 2003 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Justice Steven Z. Perren Juvenile Justice Complex located at 4333 Vineyard Avenue in Oxnard.

Keynote speakers will include Judge Brian J. Back; Assembly Member Hannah-Beth Jackson; Sheila Gonzalez, Regional Administrative Director for the Administrative Office of the Courts; and Justice Steven Z. Perren. Opening comments will be made by Presiding Judge Bruce A. Clark; Judy Mikels, chair of the Board of Supervisors; and Supervisor John K. Flynn. Court Executive Officer Michael D. Planet will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Construction of the courthouse will begin by the end of February and is expected to take 12-15 months. The target occupancy date is July 2004.

The contract for the project was awarded to S.J. Amoroso Construction Company on February 11, 2003. Amoroso is the current contractor for the juvenile detention facility.

When completed, the 56,000 square foot court facility will include two juvenile dependency courtrooms, two juvenile delinquency courtrooms and

two general trial courtrooms. It is one of the few courthouse construction projects taking place statewide as court facilities transfer to state ownership under the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002.

The \$16 million project is being funded from the existing penalty assessment on criminal and traffic fines deposited in the Courthouse Construction Fund.

The first phase of the Juvenile Justice Complex, a 420-bed detention and commitment facility to replace the Clifton Tatum Center and Frank A. Colston Youth Center, is over 85% complete and scheduled to open in September 2003. It is being funded, in part, by a \$40.5 million grant obtained by the County of Ventura Probation Agency from the state Board of Corrections. The grant was one of the largest ever given for a juvenile facility.

The complex was officially named after Justice Steven Z. Perren by the Board of Supervisors in January 2001 in recognition of his strong efforts to bring the project to fruition. When completed, the 45 acre complex will bring courtrooms, classrooms, counseling services, administrative offices and the detention facility to one location. It will significantly change juvenile justice in Ventura County.

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